herpy

LANDSCHILDPADDEN EN WATERSCHILDPADDEN

Gopher Tortoise

Gopherus polyphemus

Gopherus polyphemus is a large, dark tortoise from dry, sandy woodland in the south-eastern USA. It digs burrows up to 12 m long, which several hundred other animal species use as shelter. The shell length is 23-30 cm. The species needs a large outdoor enclosure with deep, dry sandy soil, plenty of grass and an artificial burrow.

Familie: Testudinidae

KERNGEGEVENS

HET DIER

Volwassen grootte	**23-30 cm** totale lengte incl. staart
Gewicht	**2.000-6.000 g**
Levensduur	**60-100 jaar**
Actief	**Overdag**
Levenswijze	**Gravend**
Leefgebied	**Savanne**
Moeilijkheidsgraad	**Ervaren**

VERZORGING

Min. terrarium	**200 × 100 × 40 cm** L × B × H voor 1 volwassen dier
Temperatuur overdag	**24-30 °C**
Zonneplek	**32-36 °C**
Temperatuur 's nachts	**18-22 °C**
Luchtvochtigheid	**40-70%**
Water	**Waterbak**
UVB	**Onmisbaar** Fergusonzone 3
Voeding	**Planten**
Gehouden	**Solitair of in paren**

KWEEK

Voortplanting	**Eierleggend**
Geslachtsrijp	**108-240 maanden**
Legselgrootte	**3-15 eieren**
Legsels per jaar	**1**
Incubatie	**60-90 dagen** bij 30-31 °C

BESCHERMING EN PAPIEREN

CITES	**Bijlage II**
EU-bijlage	**Bijlage B**
IUCN	**Ernstig bedreigd (CR)**

Verzorging in het kort

HET TERRARIUM

Little has been published about keeping *Gopherus polyphemus*. The care advice rests on the habitat and on the closely related *Gopherus agassizii*, which has the same burrowing way of life.

TEMPERATUUR

By day the temperature should be 24-30 °C, with a basking spot of 32-36 °C under a heat lamp, measured on the substrate. At night 18-22 °C is suitable, and the heat is switched off.

LUCHTVOCHTIGHEID EN WATER

The species needs a relative humidity of 40-70%, and in the burrow it can be up to 80%. Keep the surface dry, but make the burrow more humid by putting damp soil and leaves at the bottom.

VERLICHTING EN UVB

The species is diurnal and basks a lot. Sunlight is best, and the animal should be out in the sun as often as the weather allows. Indoors there must be UVB lighting with a UV index of 2.0-3.0 at the basking spot (Ferguson zone 3).

VOEDING

G. polyphemus is a grazer, and grass makes up about 80% of the diet.

GEDRAG EN OMGANG

The animal is solitary and spends most of its time digging, eating and basking. In the wild the animals live in colonies with closely spaced burrows, and some females repeatedly visit the same female's burrow.

NATUURLIJK VERSPREIDINGSGEBIED

Verenigde Staten.